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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

IRAN-IRAQ MILITARY SITUATION REPORT #10
(As of 1200 EST, 15 March 1984)

Battlefield Situation

Iraq claimed to have stopped another small Iranian attack along the Al Basrah front yesterday.

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Comment: To flood the Majnoon Islands successfully, the Iraqis probably would risk flooding their own troop positions farther south.

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The Iraqi Air Force has demonstrated considerable incompetence by not striking Iranian logistic areas, force build-ups, and construction activity. Iraq has superior air power and over 200 artillery pieces near the Majnoon Islands, but have been unable to prevent the Iranians from proceeding with their preparations. Unless Iraq's commanders change their tactics soon, Baghdad could suffer a major tactical defeat once the Iranians launch their main attack.

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This report was prepared by the Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis of the Directorate of Intelligence. Questions may be directed to the Chief, Iran-Iraq Branch, Persian Gulf Division,

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These moves to expand the Guard's role reflect the clerics' distrust of Air Force and Navy loyalty. It is not likely, however, that Tehran plans to replace the regular Air Force or Navy with Revolutionary Guard units as long as the war continues.

Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference

The Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference in Baghdad ended yesterday. The participants adopted a resolution condemning Iranian aggression and set up a committee to monitor efforts to encourage Iran to end the war. According to unconfirmed press reports, Arabs will not threaten sanctions against West European and other countries trading with Iran, but will offer financial incentives to stop economic deals with Iran.

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